

Outdoor Burning Creates Hazardous Air Pollution

Anyone taking a match to a woody debris pile this spring may want to think twice. If the pile contains household trash the fire will add dangerous pollutants to the air.

What harm can my small burn pile cause?

According to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study, each pound of garbage burned in a burn barrel emits twice as much furans, 20 times more dioxin, and 40 times more particulates than if that same pound of garbage were burned in an incinerator with air pollution controls.

The burning of just about any material, whether plastic, paper, or wood, produces a variety of hazardous and toxic air pollutants, including carcinogens such as arsenic, benzene and formaldehyde.

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. These fires often threaten the safety of citizens and fire fighters, burn structures, and damage

natural resources. Because of their danger, debris burns are regulated by state code. Requirements include a ban on burning after 6 p.m., as well as on Sundays, holidays and during high winds when the ground is not snow-covered.

Can I get a permit to burn?

Permits for burning may be issued in your community. Possible sources for burn permits are a nearby Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Service Center or a local fire warden. Permits help inform local citizens of the correct method to burn clean paper or wood and alert fire fighters to locations where they can expect smoke.

Even though a person has a permit, if a fire escapes from control or the person fails to extinguish the fire, he or she can be held responsible for all costs of suppression and civil damages. Anyone burning without a permit will be issued a citation.

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EPA Delists Methyl Ethyl Ketone

After extensive review, EPA has removed methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) from the Clean Air Act list of toxic air pollutants. Declassifying MEK will not compromise public health and may even present a public health benefit as companies replace more toxic or environmentally damaging chemicals with MEK.

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3/fact_sheets/mek_fs.html

Although removed from the list of toxic air pollutants, MEK remains regulated as a volatile organic compound (VOC).

For more information on the decision to delist MEK, refer to EPA's website at:

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Outdoor Burning

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Campfires and cooking fires are allowed without a burning permit unless an outdoor burning ban has been announced by the DNR.

In addition, burning the following materials is **prohibited** under any conditions:

- wet, combustible rubbish, such as wet cardboard or paper
- oily substances, such as oily or greasy rags or oil filters
- asphalt products such as shingles or tar paper
- plastics of any kind, including plastic bottles and plastic bags
- rubber products, including tires and hoses
- treated or painted wood
- upholstered furniture, bedding, carpeting, etc.

What is a business allowed to do?

No business or individual property owner may burn standing structures such as houses, sheds, cabins, garages, etc. Individual property owners may take a structure apart and burn the clean, unpainted and untreated wood portions in small manageable piles. All other solid waste from demolished structures must be disposed in an approved solid waste facility. Fire departments may be able to obtain a special approval from the DNR for structure burns to be used in training fire fighters.

Businesses, commercial enterprises, and industries may not use burn barrels or openly burn wastes and may not be granted burning permits by municipalities. Businesses may obtain a permit to burn small brush piles that are the result of clearing business property on a case-by-case basis.

When burning, be courteous to neighbors and be aware of the effect your smoke and air pollution has on people and the environment downwind.

The DNR encourages all persons to consider alternatives to open burning such as reducing the amount of waste produced, reuse of items, recycling, chipping and composting yard and brush and landfilling.

Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling information is also available at local DNR Service Centers or on the DNR Web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov>.

The Environmental Law Assistance Program

Provided as a public service by the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Environmental Law Assistance Program was developed to help those facing problems with environmental issues but unable to obtain assistance from other sources.

Attorneys volunteer their time and provide up to **four** hours of free legal assistance on environmental issues. Individuals and citizens' groups throughout the state can receive free assistance from environmental attorneys through the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Examples of common issues in environmental law include:

- ✓ potential health or safety hazards in your neighborhood not being addressed
- ✓ removing, transporting and disposing of asbestos or other toxic substances from your home or property
- ✓ soil or water contamination complicating the sale or purchase of your property
- ✓ protecting the natural state of a wetland area or prairie site
- ✓ air or water contamination causing health problems for your family or community
- ✓ purchasing, selling, or leasing property that has soil or water contamination caused by a previous owner
- ✓ erosion control regulations affecting your farming operation
- ✓ city or town rezoning that is adversely affecting residents
- ✓ owning property with a leaking storage tank or a spill

For more information, visit:

<http://www.legalexplorer.com/legal/legal-QA.asp?Sid=19#sub>

Compliance Deadlines for MACT Standards

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of toxic air pollutants from a published list of industrial sources referred to as "source categories." EPA has developed regulations (also known as rules or standards) for all of the listed industrial source categories. These source category rules are called MACT standards because the rules require that the industry controls the toxic air pollutants to the level of Maximum Achievable Control Technology.

Within three years of the date that EPA issues a MACT standard, affected facilities within the industrial source category must show EPA that they are complying with the standard. A number of MACT standards have compliance due dates in May 2006. A few more have compliance deadlines later in 2006. The table below outlines the compliance due dates for categories in 2006.

MACT Category	Compliance Deadline
Asphalt Roofing	5/1/06
Engine Test Cell Firing	5/27/06
Fabric Printing, Coating, and Dyeing	5/29/06
Metal Can Surface Coating	11/13/06
Metal Furniture Coating	5/23/06
Misc. Coating Manufacturing	12/11/06
Site Remediation	10/9/06
Wood Building Products	5/28/06

For information on any of these categories as well as implementation tools, go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/mactfnlalph.html>

EPA Scientists Share Innovations with Public and Businesses

More than 130 EPA scientific patents of technologies that benefit the environment can now be viewed at the new EPA TechMatch web site: <http://www.epatechmatch.com/epa/index.aspx>

Under the Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA) of 1986, government agencies may patent and license inventions, to help new ideas move from government laboratories to the marketplace. Entrepreneurs are provided the opportunity to license EPA technologies to develop new products.

For example, EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich., has patented several inventions related to hybrid motor vehicles that could result in greater fuel mileage in new vehicles manufactured in the U.S.

TechMatch will encourage entrepreneurs to license technologies developed by EPA scientists for new products that both strengthen environmental protection and improve the growth of our economy. TechMatch includes third-party independent analyses of the commercial potential of the technologies, information on in-house research, and links to the full U.S. Patent and Trademark Office description of each patent. Technologies that have been assessed to have particularly high market potential are also featured.

State Coalition for Remediation of Dry Cleaning
Virtual Tour of a Shop
<http://www.drycleancoalition.org/tour/>

The tour provides basic information on the dry cleaning process and great pictures of different equipment. Click the "maximize" button in the bottom left corner for best viewing.

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- ☐ Owner/President

Correction on Requirements for T-Butyl Acetate

The last edition of the *Advisor* included a summary of changes to the requirements for t-butyl acetate or TBAC emissions. The previous article had a couple mistakes that we wish to correct.

Permit Requirements

When determining if a permit is required, a facility must add up all emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) to compare against an exemption threshold. Do **not** include TBAC emissions when determining if you need a permit.

Reporting Requirements

Reporting of TBAC and VOC emissions to the DNR's Air Emissions Inventory or Consolidated Reporting System is required. The following

explains the correct way to count and report VOCs and TBAC emissions to DNR:

When reporting emissions for the DNR's Air Emissions Inventory, you must add any TBAC emissions together with your total VOCs to determine if you are above the 6,000 pound per year reporting threshold for VOCs. If this total, VOCs plus TBAC, is above 6,000 pounds, you must report all of those emissions. When completing the report, TBAC emissions would be listed separately from VOCs.

For example, if you have 5900 pounds of VOCs and 120 pounds of TBAC, then your total emissions are 6020 pounds. You would then report 5900 pounds VOC and 120 pounds TBAC.